IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION)))
Plaintiff,))) Case No. 1:18-cv-04309-PKC-KHF
v.)
FRANCISCO ABELLAN VILLENA, et al.)
Defendants.)
)

MOTION TO WITHDRAW AS COUNSEL

Defendant James Panther ("Defendant Panther) respectfully moves the Court to grant present counsel, Russell D. Duncan, Esq., permission to withdraw as counsel in this matter.

Defendant Panther has hired Dennis Burke, Esq. of the law firm of Ballard Spahr to represent him in this matter. Mr. Burke has informed Defendant's counsel that his firm will represent Defendant Panther at the status hearing scheduled for January 27, 2020, at 2:00 p.m.

Counsel for the SEC has consented to this motion.

WHEREFORE, Defendant Panther respectfully requests that this motion be granted.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Russell D. Duncan

Russell D. Duncan, Esq.

Clark Hill PLC

1001 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

Suite 1300 South

Washington, DC 20004

Telephone: (202) 640-6657

Facsimile: (202) 552-2377

Email: rduncan@clarkhill.com

Counsel for Defendant James B. Panther, Jr.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify on this 21st day of January, 2020, a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing *Motion To Withdraw As Counsel* was electronically filed with the Clerk of the Court through ECF, which will send notice to the following counsel of record:

Daniel J. Maher
Duane K. Thompson
Marc E. Johnson
Jennie B. Krasner
Securities and Exchange Commission
100 F Street, N.E.
Washington, DC 20549

Tracee Plowell Michelle R. Pascucci Department Of Justice 1400 New York Avenue Washington, DC 20005

/s/ Russell D. Duncan

Russell D. Duncan, Esq.